

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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TEACHERS UNIONS

The problems of teacher unions in Christian Schools continues to be a major concern in Christian Educational circles. At the present time there are unions in sixteen of the 77 institutions affiliated with the National Education Association of Christian Schools. Others are in the process of organizations.

In this connection the Church and Society Division of the Research Institute of the United Church of Christ has recently published a statement for the guidance of 53 affiliated schools and more than a hundred social welfare institutions. According to this report, it is because of human frailty that unions are needed to handle educational, persomel, and salary problems. Unions based on the Labor Standards Law are useful in developing a democratic relationship, it continues, but should not be considered as the sole means of attaining that end. Other means such as administrative or joint councils are also of value. Teachers unions that are dominated by some "ism", such as communism or socialism, are considered to be inappropriate in Christian institutions by the Institute which says that the ideal should always be Christian social justice. Therefore, it

affirms, Christian teachers should participate fully in the unions that exist in order that the propelling motivation will be the practice of Christian faith. When the need does not exist, there is no reason why unions should be established, concludes the report, because the ideal is a state in which teachers unions are unnecessary.

RELIGION IN COMMUNIST CHINA

Mrs. Kiyoko Cho, Associate Professor of International Christian University, returned on June 5 from China, which she visited as a representative of the United Church of Christ. At a special meeting of the Committee on International Relations on June 8 at the Christian Center, she reported in substance as follows: "During my two weeks sojourn on the mainland I visited Shanghai, Canton, Nanking, Hanchow and Peking and made an effort to see both the good and the bad features of Red China. At a farm in Hanchow, when I asked an elderly lady of 85 which she liked better, prewar or postwar China, she replied: 'Before the war old people were annoyed and told to die. Also there were many thieves. Since the war, there are no beggars and no thieves. Our life is friendly and peaceful.' But she didn't know why. Many people thought that Christianity would perish in China because of the revolution but church representatives met Mao Tse Tung and secured from him a promise not to suppress the Sanjiai (Self-government, Self-support and Self-propagation) Movement. As a result Christians renewed their faith so that now there are 3 million Catholic Christians and 700,000 Protestants. Religious faith is not suppressed as long as it is not against the present regime. There is no religious education in schools but the study of communism is required. This is because they believe in communism. People say that if Christianity is true we should fight together for the truth." Mrs. Cho used a Chinese interpreter.

RETURN TO INDONESIA

The Reverend Ryoichi Kato, whose assignment to accompany the War-dead Remains Repatriation Commission when it leaves for the south on June 20 was reported in the last issue, is pastor of the Ikebukuro Church. He is 46 years of age, was educated in the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and is a member of the Standing Committee of the United Church. While participating in the Pacification Corps during the war he made friends with many Christians and was able to ameliorate their lot under the Japanese Army. When he was taken ill with Malaria, Indonesian Christians visited him in the hospital to pray together and provided him with food which was very scarce. Since the war Mr. Kato has assisted Indonesians here and founded the "Indonesian Friends Association". In returning to Indonesia, he looks forward to meeting old friends to whom, he says, he owes his life.

GREECE, CYPUS AND ISRAEL VISITED

The current situation in England, Greece, Cypus and Israel was graphically described by Dr. Enkichi Kan, Dean of St. Paul's University, in an illustrated lecture at the Ginza Christian Center on June 5. This was the first of series of addresses on contemporary national and world trends which is being sponsored by the Commission on Public Relations of the NCC of which the Reverend Tsunetaro Miyakoda is chairman. Dr. Kan spent the past year in England as a visiting professor at St. Augustine Theological Seminary in Cantebury, England.

MISSIONS AT WORK

The Tokyo Council of Church Women has just published a remarkable volume entitled "Missions at Work", which is a must for all who are interested in the field of missionary education. The product of a Mission Workshop Committee of the Council, the book contains not only a large amount of useful background and up-to-date information but includes the script for a number of sets of color slides which were prepared especially for this purpose. Missionary education leaders who want to prepare well in advance for their next year programs on Japan will find the basic material for a number of occasions all worked out for them in this volume. Even if the slides are not purchased, the script is still valuable in the preparation of talks on such subjects as "Japan, the Land and the People," "Social Welfare," "Japan Church World Service" and "Christian Education." Not the least valuable are eighteen thumb-nail sketches of Japanese Christians who have effectively witnessed to their faith.

The aim of this committee was to present the story to the members of the Council in such a way that they in turn could present it to church groups in the homelands. Nine all-day programs were conducted in which 20 speakers, missionary and Japanese, participated and thirteen places were visited. 331 different women registered for one or more programs. \$802.73 was donated to nine separate projects by them and \$416.80 is available for future projects. Twenty-five denominations were represented in those who attended. "Missions at Work" is vital. It is personal. It has a message. The Church in Japan is indebted to these devoted Christian women. It sells for \$1.00 and may be secured from any of the Security Forces' chaples in the Tokyo area.

JAPANESE RELIGION IN THE MEIJI ERA

Missionaries and scholars interested in Japanese religion will welcome the publication of an English translation of "Japanese Religion in the Meiji Era," a book compiled and edited in Japanese by Dr. Hideo Kishimoto, head of the Department of Religious Studies of Tokyo University. Following the "Introduction: Religion During Tokugawa," the subject is divided into

four parts: Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity and Religion and Social Development. Each is written by an outstanding scholar whose authorship is a guarantee that this volume is unquestionably an authoritative presentation of the first order. For an understanding of the background of present-day religion it should be required reading for all missionaries working in Japan. Mr. John Howes (Oberlin BA 1950), the translator, is a candidate for a doctorate degree at Columbia University. His special interest in the field of Japanese history is the influence of Christianity, particularly Protestantism, on the development of modern Japan. "Japanese Religion in the Meiji Era" is published by Obunsha, Tokyo, and is on sale at Kyobun Kan.

CHRISTIAN AND POLITICS

Stirred by disorder in the closing days of the recent session of the Diet, members of the Tokyo Christian Laymen's Association are planning to organize an All-Japan Christian League to assist Christian candidates on a nation-wide scale. The reported objectives of the association are (1) to elect Christian candidates, (2) to provide information on political problems, (3) to promote or oppose principles and measures from the standpoint of the Christian faith, and (4) to promote cooperation among Christians. There is no thought of organizing a separate political party. The support of suitable candidates of either party is the primary purpose of the proposed organization. Mr. Kiichi Kobayashi, a prominent Christian businessman and president of the Tokyo Christian Laymen's Association, is spear-heading the movement. The election for 127 seats in the House of Councillors takes place on July 8.

CHRISTIANITY AND LABOR

A conference on Christianity and Labor is to be held at the Ginza Christian Center in Tokyo on June 22, under the auspices of the Social Problems Committee of the National Christian Council. It is anticipated that a Council of Labor leaders and Christians will be formed to promote a better understanding of the labor movement and develop a fraternal spirit between the church and labor. Among those scheduled to be present at the conference are Kishi Enomoto, chairman of the Kyoto Local Council of the General Council of Labor Unions (Sohyo), Toyohiko Kagawa, Komakichi Matsuoka (the Samuel Gompers of the Japanese labor movement), Motojiro Sugiyama, Vice-President of the House of Representatives, and Tetsu Katayama, former Prime Minister.

TO STUDY GERMAN DEACONESS MOVEMENT

The Reverend Kazuyuki Nishimura 34 year old United Church Minister in Mihobara Village, Shizuoka prefecture, is leaving for Germany on June 16 to study the Deaconess Movement in that country. There are at present six German Deaconesses serving to Japan.

Six are working in a Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Hamamatsu and two are serving with physically handicapped women at the Bethesda Home in Chiba prefecture. Mr. Nishimura is making the trip at the invitation of the Deaconesses Association of Germany and will be absent approximately one year.

IN BRIEF

The Reverend Yoriichi Manabe, chairman of the Central Committee of Japan Church World Service returned on June 14 from the Geneva Meeting of the Interchurch aid and Services for Refugees of the WCC.

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The Reverend Zenichi Hidaka, Minister of the Toshima Komagome Church who will be remembered for his vigorous editorials in the Fukuin Shimpō (Gospel News) of prewar years, died of appendicitis at his home on June 10 at the age of 77.

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The Reverend Kiyoshi Hirai, General Secretary of the National Christian Council, is leaving Japan for Europe via the USA on June 30 to attend a meeting of the Division of Foreign Missions of the World Lutheran Church and confer with leaders of the WCC, NCC and IMC.

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Students of post war-Christian education in Japan and missionaries speakers will find "The Literature of Japanese Education, 1945-54" an invaluable source for reference material. Compiled by Dr. Walter Crosby Eccles, who was formerly Advisor on Higher Education, Civil Information and Education Section of the Occupation, the volume not only gives a comprehensive list of books and articles on the subject but also a very brief comment on the contents of many of the references.

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